

# TONY DEREGNAUCOURT REMEMBERED

by  
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Tony DeRegnaucourt was one of the few professional archaeologists who had a rapport with collectors and amateurs. He appreciated the significance of surface-found collections, which enabled him to interpret the wide array and material of Ohio's prehistoric cultures. And, he was one of the first archaeologists who understood the necessity of using the metal detector on historic sites.

Tony maintained a collection of artifacts because he believed it is impossible to make accurate identifications without having had the opportunity to handle and examine many examples, that is, to understand how artifacts should "feel," especially since most have been used and damaged prehistorically. Certain organizations prohibit private ownership of artifacts by archaeologists, but this rule failed to intimidate Tony. He often said that the prohibition was self-defeating, and he often quoted Thoreau: "Any fool can make a rule, and every fool will mind it."

Over many years Tony acquired an enormous library which included all of the latest archaeological publications as well as rare and out-of-print books. He freely made this library available to whoever needed it. One of the authors completed a detailed MS

degree in archaeology using this amazing library exclusively.

Because of Tony's vast knowledge and great sense of humor, he was always in demand as a speaker for the Archaeological Society of Ohio as well as chapters of the Society and symposiums. His expertise included every prehistoric time period as well as the military history of western Ohio, and his instant recall of dates and facts made his presentations informative to professional archaeologists and amateurs alike.

Tony reached out to the public not only in speaking engagements, but also through his publications. His writing was fresh and original - he never plagiarized anyone else's work - he didn't have to. Tony remains one of the most highly published archaeologists in Ohio. His publications include:

- 1991-1992 *A Field Guide to the Prehistoric Point Types of Indiana and Ohio.*
- 1994 *Archaeology of Prophetstown, Greenville, Ohio, 1805-1808*
- 1995 *The Archaeology of Camp Stillwater.*
- 1995 *Anthony Wayne and the Ohio Indian Wars.*
- 1996 *The Archaeology of Fort Recovery, Ohio: St. Clair's Defeat, November 4, 1791 and Wayne's Victory on June 30 and July 1, 1794.*

- 1996 *Archaeology of Fort St. Marys, Ohio: Major Anthony Wayne's Fort, 1795-1806.*
- 1997 *Prehistoric Chert Types of the Midwest.*
- 2007 *Archaeology of the Fort at Greenville, Ohio.*

Tony's 1991-1992 *Field Guide* has been through several printings and is now highly collectible. He originally wrote that book for his MA thesis, which was rejected by Ball State University at Muncie, Indiana (!).

Excavations with him were a treat as he was not one of the grim-faced boys; he made sure everyone working at the site not only learned something, but had a great time doing it. He was our encyclopedia if we needed information, often the best way to obtain it was to call Tony, who had names, dates, and references on the tip of his tongue.

Tony DeRegnaucourt passed away on Oct. 17, 2011, at the age of 58. Because he was an Air Force veteran who studied for several years at the Air Force Academy, he was buried with full military honors. He lies beside his mother at Riverside Cemetery in Cambridge City, Indiana. This unique individual is sadly missed by his many friends, his daughter, Amber, and his grandchildren.



Dr. David Cox and Tony DeRegnaucourt.



Tony DeRegnaucourt at the Greenville Symposium.





*Tony presented a paper on chert types at CCIA workshop, University of Indianapolis, March 20, 2000.*



*Dave Cox, Tony and Dan Bartlett recovered numerous artifacts and features from the fort at Greene Ville in a front yard on Water Street.*



*Tony and Barry McLearn working on a screen.*



*Tony and Dave Cox used metal detectors on Third Street, thereby recovering a number of small metal artifacts that would have penetrated a screen.*



*Tony displays his book on chert types.*



*Excavation in the Southwest.*



*One of Tony's first excavations in Indiana.*